

a What is claimed

**CLAIMS**

1. Random polymers of fatty alcohols with ethylene oxide and propylene oxide corresponding to formula (I):



in which  $R^1$  is an alkyl group containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms, EO stands  $CH_2CH_2O$ , PO stands for  $CHCH_3CH_2O$  and/or  $CH_2CHCH_3O$ , n is a whole or broken number of 2 to 7 and m is a whole or broken number of 1.5 to 3,  
10 characterized in that the molar ratio of propylene oxide to ethylene oxide is from 10:90 to 50:50.

2. Random polymers as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the molar ratio of propylene oxide to ethylene oxide is from 25:75 to 40:60.

3. Random polymers as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that n is a  
15 whole or broken number of 3 to 5.

4. Random polymers as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that m is a whole or broken number of 2 to 2.5.

5. Random polymers as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that  $R^1$  is derived from a fatty alcohol mixture containing at least 30% by weight of  
20  $C_{14-18}$  fatty alcohols and at most 70% by weight of  $C_{6-12}$  fatty alcohols.

6. A process for the production of random polymers of fatty alcohols with ethylene oxide and propylene oxide corresponding to formula (I):



with the definitions given in claim 1, by reacting ethylene oxide and propylene oxide with fatty alcohol having the formula  $R^1OH$  in the presence of aqueous bases, characterized in that the propylene oxide and ethylene oxide in a molar ratio of 10:90 to 40:60 are reacted with fatty alcohols by  
30 methods known per se.

7. A process as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the molar ratio of propylene oxide to ethylene oxide is in the range from 25:75 to 40:60.
8. A process as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that a fatty alcohol mixture containing at least 30% by weight of C<sub>14-18</sub> fatty alcohols and at  
5 most 70% by weight of C<sub>6-12</sub> fatty alcohols is reacted.
9. The use of the random polymers of fatty alcohols corresponding to formula (I) claimed in claim 1 as a surfactant in water-dilutable concentrates.

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